



Devon County Indoor Bowls Association

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD AT MID DEVON INDOOR BOWLING CLUB ON 25th APRIL 2022

PRIOR TO THE MEETING STARTING THE COUNTY SECRETARY REGRETFULLY ANNOUNCED TO THOSE PRESENT OF THE SAD PASSING OF ALBERT NOAKES. ALBERT WAS A. LIFE MEMBER OF THIS ASSOCIATION AND HE EARNED IT WITH HIS COMPETENCE AND ENTHUSIASM IN HIS SUPPORT. HE WAS WELL KNOWN AT WHICHEVER CLUB HE VISITED IN THE COUNTY OR INDEED OTHER COUNTIES AS WELL. THERE ARE A LOT OF PLAYERS AND CLUBS WHO OWE ALBERT A LOT IN THE FURTHERING OF THEIR BOWLING CAREERS DUE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE OF AND PASSION FOR OUR SPORT. HE WILL BE SADLY MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM. KEN ASKED FOR ALL PRESENT TO JOIN HIM IN STANDING FOR A MINUTE TO REFLECT ON OUR LOSS.

- 1) President Mousa opened the meeting.
- 2) Apologies for absence were heard from Chris Maynard, Mike Sampson, Keith Young and George Taylor.
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting having been previously circulated were approved and signed off.
- 4) There were no matters arising.
- 5) There were no issues with the website.
- 6) The Treasurer David Butterworth then presented his report. A discussion followed where he told the meeting that whilst the reserve held is adequate, that situation could have to be looked at carefully if the county's success at Liberty, Over60s and Under 18s are repeated. Then funds would be needed to fund their travels, especially if EIBA should change start times to earlier in the day, necessitating possible overnight hotel stays.
- 7) The Match Secretary Keith Weeks presented his report and told the meeting that we had retained the Westport Trophy again and had played 78 games and he thanked those clubs that had supported the County.

- 8)** Secretary Ken introduced Jill Beer to the meeting as the new Fixture Secretary following Tony Davies. She is progressing with next season's fixtures and as soon as they are ready they will be posted on the website (subject to EIBA changes as is their wont) We are fortunate in securing Jill's services as Fixture Secretary.
- 9)** Competition Secretary Chris Beer then reported on the County Finals held at Exonia and praised the competitors and the winners in particular. Some events had to be re-scheduled at a very late date but were all accommodated. Thanks in particular were given to our President for assistance given. At this point and with assistance from the meeting the options pot was drawn from for next year's team competitions. Option 5 was chosen for the County Trophy. Option 4 was chosen for the Parrott Shield. Option 4 was chosen for the Top Club competition. The option for the Over 60s League could not be drawn until the actual number of entries was known.
- 10)** League Secretary David Butterworth gave his report to the meeting. It was mentioned by a club that there had been a rumour that next season there would only be one division in the Inter-League competition. David was quite clear there no such move had been mooted.
- 11)** The Over 60s Inter County Trophy Manager reported that once again we lost in the semifinals, this time to Kent. We were without the services of key players but only lost by three shots. Next time the final!
- 12)** The Liberty Trophy Manager reported that after winning the much delayed 2019/2020 Trophy, we unfortunately lost the 2021/2022 semi-final to Essex, calls on our squad by Bowls England for their Commonwealth Games preparations depriving us of several important players. The team played very well and the County can be proud of them all.
- 13)** Ken reported that thankfully the Safeguarding Officer George Taylor had had no issues to deal with.
- 14)** The Under25s Manager John berry gave his last report as Manager to the meeting. Adam Fielder is his replacement and John wished him all the success he could wish for, even in spite of efforts by EIBA not to help this and other Associations. We own John a sincere vote of thanks for his work in this position.
- 15)** The Devon Colts Managers gave their report on the activities and achievements of the Colts in their first season as managers. Adam and Heidi are still concerned about the availability of players to play in various competitions. Clubs need to attract more younger players to the Colts to improve the numbers in their squad. A decision as to whether or not to compete in the under 18 s National would have to be made if the numbers do not improve. It was stated and commented on that EIBA have managed to damage the possibilities of allowing some players to continue by not choosing this county's proposal for increasing age limits for all players. There was a distinct possibility that mens competitions at this level may disappear altogether. This could have a profound effect on subsequent levels in the future if not addressed now. It was suggested that a new Form-C might be sent to

clubs to include players under 30 , but it would appear, from a general position, clubs do not have sufficient numbers to help. The County Secretary used this opportunity to ask if member clubs could nominate someone to solely concentrate on finding a sponsor for our association overall. This position would on this single issue only.

16) The report on the County Tour was submitted to the meeting. The tour to Gloucestershire was a success and enjoyed by those that traveled. Member clubs really need to increase the level of publicity given to the tour on their notice boards and by giving information to members. There was a need to decide on whether to decrease the number of ends played and to make sure that our opponents are in agreement to the required method of play. This is especially important on the day of the tour dinner with the need to get back to the hotel for the hotel service times. Larry will talk to the clubs individually.

17) The Vice Presidents Report was given by Ken Brenchley.

18) There were four proposals from clubs that would be put to the meeting to be and submitted to the AGM for ratification. For identification they have been labelled A,B,C and D and clubs have already had sight of each.

Proposal A: Over 60s Divisional Groups - proposed by Sidmouth and seconded by Honiton. Votes: For: 4, Against:8. The motion therefore was denied.

Proposal B: Over-60s League Start Times - proposed by Torbay and seconded by Dawlish. For: 3, Against:9. The motion therefore was denied.

Proposal C: Inter Club Substitutes Proposed by Torbay - as the motion had no seconder the motion would have to be re-submitted to the association.

Proposal D: Dress Code proposed by Torbay and seconded by Kingsley. For: 9, Against:0. Therefore the motion was carried. The proposal would be submitted to the AGM for ratification.

19) The Treasurer submitted the membership and capitation fees for 2022/2023 to the meeting for approval. They are £1-00 per club membership and £4-60 for for each playing member. Travelling expenses for officers remain unchanged at £0-30 per mile. This was submitted for approval to the meeting en-bloc and it was unanimously approved for submitting to the AGM for ratification.

20) The County Secretary submitted the list of Officers and Executive Appointments for 2022/2023. The list has already been seen by the member clubs. The secretary asked for a vote on the list en-bloc and it was carried unanimously with the exception of one club abstaining. The proposal would be submitted to the AGM for ratification.

21) The Secretary submitted a report. As until late in the day it was not known if he would attend, it had not been possible to post it on the website. He had received notification from the EIBA of their AGM agenda and fees as the clubs had. He indicated

to the meeting the voting intentions for their approval and if he couldn't attend then Mr Stephen Hill would be our proxy vote. There was unanimous approval from the meeting. He then proceeded to read a number of communications from clubs to be read out. As these were all basically statements of matters that already happened no questions were sought.

22) ANY OTHER BUSINESS was carried out. There was a discussion on the fact that EIBA have reasons only that can be guessed at to INCREASE the age limit for the UNDER 25s to UNDER 30 on an open basis. This does not make any kind of sense as there is already a mixed competition (David Cornwell Trophy).

It was asked of the meeting if it could be considered that a higher level of cooperation with the ladies could be considered to help with clubs for competitions and helping with recruitment of officers. It was stated to the meeting that the initial movement on closer communication should come from EIBA but at the moment there are two distinctly separate Associations registered with EIBA, the DCIBA for the men and the DCLIBA for the ladies, both with distinctly different constitution and rules and aims.

The County Secretary as he stated earlier said that he still intended to attend the AGM in Leicester and he might be able to test the water.

23) The Date of the next meeting, which would be the AGM would be notified as soon as possible together with the venue. It was the general feeling of the meeting that a mid week date was most suitable.

24) The President closed the meeting at 8-35pm and thanked Ian Turner and Mid-Devon for their hospitality.